

## THE CLAIMS

It is claimed:

- 1 1. A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the  
 2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output  
 3 an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal  
 4 into a stimulus, the method comprising:
  - 5 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
  - 6 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the  
 7 computer generating an audio stream;
  - 8 c) based upon the audio stream, generating a stimulus; and
  - 9 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates if the user heard the  
 10 stimulus.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer program includes an audio  
 2 parameter and wherein the audio stream is generated based upon the audio parameter.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
 2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the  
 3 Internet.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
 2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an  
 3 email.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the program from a  
 2 server includes downloading an audio parameter that indicates at least one frequency  
 3 of the stimulus.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the program from a  
 2 server includes downloading an audio parameter that indicates at least one amplitude  
 3 of the stimulus.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the program from a  
2 server includes downloading an audio parameter that indicates at least one type of the  
3 stimulus.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the program from a  
2 server includes downloading an audio parameter that indicates that two stimulus types  
3 should be combined to generate the stimulus.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the program from a  
2 server includes downloading an audio parameter that indicates that the program  
3 should determine which stimulus should be presented in the test.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes  
2 generating a stimulus within a user-defined frequency range.

1 11. The method of claim 1, further including:  
2 a) sending first data to the server;  
3 b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and  
4 c) sending second data to the computer.

1 12. A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the  
2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output  
3 an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal  
4 into a stimulus, the method comprising:  
5 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;  
6 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the  
7 computer program generating an audio stream;  
8 c) based upon the audio stream, generating a stimulus; and  
9 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the  
10 stimulus.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of downloading the computer  
2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer  
3 via the Internet.

- 1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of downloading the computer  
2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer  
3 via an email.
- 1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes  
2 generating a first stimulus having a first frequency and a second stimulus having a  
3 second frequency.
- 1 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes  
2 generating a first stimulus having a first amplitude and a second stimulus having a  
3 second amplitude.
- 1 17. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes  
2 generating a first stimulus having a first type and a second stimulus having a second  
3 type.
- 1 18. The method of claim 12, further including:  
2 a) sending first data to the server;  
3 b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and  
4 c) sending second data to the computer.
- 1 19. A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that,  
2 when executed by a computer system, tests the hearing of a user by:  
3 a) generating an audio stream based upon an audio parameter;  
4 b) based upon the audio stream, generating a stimulus;  
5 c) receiving an input from a user that indicates that the user heard the  
6 stimulus;  
7 d) sending first data to a server; and  
8 e) receiving second data from the server.
- 1 20. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the audio parameter  
2 indicates the frequency of the stimulus.

1 21. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the audio parameter  
2 indicates the amplitude of the stimulus.

1 22. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the audio parameter  
2 indicates the type of the stimulus.

1 23. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the audio parameter  
2 indicates that two stimulus types should be combined to generate the stimulus.

1 24. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the act of generating the  
2 stimulus includes generating a stimulus within a user-defined frequency range.